

Collecting mainly Diptera in France during May and early June 1971

By P. J. CHANDLER

I spent the period from 22nd May to 5th June 1971 in France, when I had my first experience of collecting on the continent. In view of the rarity of accounts of excursions abroad by dipterists in the British journals and the lack of any, as far as I am aware, from France, it would perhaps be of interest to British collectors to comment on some of the results of my activities there.

The majority of the species seen or collected were found to belong to the British fauna, this probably being due to the earliness of the visit, but many of these were nevertheless new to me and some insects very rarely taken in this country were found to be common. A sprinkling of exotic species was present in most of the localities visited which added to the interest of the fauna; all such species (i.e. those not on the British list) mentioned below are marked *. The following account is in no way intended to be exhaustive of the species collected, allusion being made only to those of special interest.

Upon arriving at Dieppe to be greeted by rain on the afternoon of 22nd May, I made rapidly for the Pyrenees with the intention of spending most of the time in that district. Brief stops were made en route, the first on 23rd May being in a roadside wood to the north of Saintes in Charente-Maritime. Insects were numerous there as they were in most localities sampled in France. Captures included *Parallelomma paridis* Her. (Scatophagidae), which as a larva mines the leaves of Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia* L.) and the Shield Bug parasite *Gymnosoma rotundatum* L. (Tachinidae), which was to prove of frequent occurrence in the Pyrenees and Auvergne; the latter species used to occur locally in the London area twenty years ago, but has not been found in the last decade probably due to climatic changes. A brief stop was made the following morning near Gorlin in the Basses-Pyrénées but as at Saintes most insects seen were common British species.

Several localities in the Basses-Pyrénées were sampled on 25th May. In a flowery field under plane trees at Lurbe St. Cristau the tiny *Sympycnus annulipes* Mg.* (Dolichopodidae) was among the captures; this was formerly on the British list but all our specimens are apparently *S. dessouteri* Par., differing in its shorter antenna. A male of *Chyliza vittata* Mg. (Psilidae) was walking about on plane foliage; it has been reared from the Bird's nest Orchid (*Neottia nidus-avis* L.) but occurs in localities in Britain where this plant is absent. *Rhingia rostrata* L. (Syrphidae) was equally common here and at the next locality visited with *R. campestris* Mg.; they were smaller with darker abdominal sutures than British *rostrata* (for notes on the British status of *R. rostrata* see Chandler, 1969).

At the Bois du Bager, visited later in the morning, Syrphids were abundant on various flowers in the rides, mostly 'British' species but two males of the beautiful little golden-haired bulb fly *Merodon aeneus* Mg.* were taken at the flowers of Ox-eye Daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* L.) as were *Gymnosoma rotundatum* and a *Clytiomyia* species* (Tachinidae). Other flies swept included the Trypetid *Chaetorellia jaceae* R.-D. In the afternoon, I ascended the Col d' Aubisque; as the road was blocked by snow I descended again, stopping just below the village where the slope was clothed by beech woods containing a variety of mountain flowers. Diptera were sparse there apart from a few small Nematocera but these included the Mycetophilid *Leia beckeri* Land.*, known only from the mountains of North Africa until recorded recently from the French Pyrenees by Matile (1967).

On the following day the weather had deteriorated, heavy rain preventing further collecting in this area so I moved east in the hope of escaping it. The rain stopped briefly at about 5.0 p.m. when I took the opportunity to investigate a meadow in the valley floor near Ussat-les-Bains by the road to Ax-les-Thermes (Ariège). Beating the ivy growing on the rock face at the rear of the field produced a lot of small Diptera and also the comparatively large yellowish grey crane-fly like insect *Liponeura cinerascens* Lw.* (Blepharoceridae), belonging to a distinctive family not represented in the British Isles; they have aquatic larvae, living only in running water. The rather *Beris*-like metallic blue green Stratiomyid *Actina nitens* Latr.*, the Empid *Platypalpus major* Zett. (females only) and a *Weberia* species (Tachinidae) were numerous in the meadow.

The day ended with heavy rain while I stopped overnight at Ax-les-Thermes and it was showery again on the morning of 27th May. Having approached Andorra as far as Mérens-les-Vals I turned back as the vegetation was too wet to collect and decided to ascend the road over the hills to Quillan. Bright periods during the day gave good collecting at several places in the department of Aude. Near the village of Espezel a meadow containing the small white and yellow flowered daffodil *Narcissus poeticus* L. was investigated. I was delighted to find that this plant was frequented by the Scatophagid fly *Norellia spinipes* Mg., recently added to the British list by Mr A. E. Stubbs and myself (1969) on material collected in part on *Narcissi*, in the leaf bases of which the larvae probably develop. It was of particular interest that *spinipes* rather than the southern European species *tipularia* F. should occur at this mountain locality. Also swept up in this meadow were several teneral *Pegomya silacea* Mg., an entirely pale yellow Anthomyiid fly, a male of *Orellia distans* Lw.* (Trypetidae) and a very small dark male of *Alophora obesa* F. (Tachinidae).

During a sunny period in the afternoon, immediately following a brief but heavy shower, a productive time was spent in the Forêt du Pays de Sault near the Col de Coudon

at the beginning of the descent to Quillan. The brightly coloured little *Paragus bicolor* F.* (Syrphidae) was swept up from sparse vegetation on a stony path near the road; this species has been on the British list but our species is apparently *P. finitimus* Goeldl. (see Pedersen, 1972). Descending along a tree-lined track, males of *Bombylius venosus* Mikan* (Bombyliidae) and *Chrysotoxum elegans* Lw. (Syrphidae) were flying in the sunshine. Then, in the lower parts where shady conditions prevailed, the attractively marked Muscid *Lisopcephala brachialis* Rdi., scarce in Britain and the tiny hover fly *Chamaesyrphus lusitanicus* Mik.* were swept. Several of the large striking Otitid fly *Otites formosa* Pz.* were sitting on the vegetation in a ditch. On a nearby large clump of *Myrrhis odorata* L. flowers, bordering a meadow surrounded by coniferous forest, the large striking saw-flies *Tenthredo albicornis* F.* and *Macrophya montana* Sch., the large red-bodied wasp *Priocnemis perturbator* Harris* and many common Diptera were present; one female of the dark Rhagionid fly *Rhagio maculatus* De Geer* was taken on the foliage of this plant. In a small meadow enclosed in the woods various flies taken included the large black Empid *Empis (Pachymeria) ciliata* F.*, more robust than our largest species of the family *E. (P.) tessellata* F. which also occurred here and with coarsely pennate legs in the female.

Taking the Perpignan road from Quillan, a brief evening visit was paid to the Forêt de Gesse, where a rich locality, consisting of woodland and riverside field in the deep valley, was found. That evening, captures included *Dactylolabis transversa* Mg. and a large intensely marked *Nephrotoma* species* (Tipulidae). The yellow and black saw-fly *Tenthredo koehleri* Klug* was numerous, usually lying motionless on its side within the flowers of buttercups, stitchwort and *Geranium nodosum* L. Two other striking saw-flies were taken on *Myrrhis* flowers, i.e., a male of the purple winged black *Tenthredo vidua* Rossi* and both sexes of the red *Dolerus germanicus* F.*. On the following morning some more time was spent in the same spot when the large striking flat-bodied female of the Tachinid *Phasia crassipennis* F.*, superficially similar to our *Alophora hemiptera* F. turned up on *Myrrhis* flowers. Among other insects taken on this occasion, were *Bombylius venosus**, *Priocnemis perturbator**, and my first specimen of the distinctive black Tachinid with yellow wing-bases, *Zophomyia temula* Scop., which is of very sporadic occurrence in the British Isles.

Leaving the Forêt de Gesse I travelled on to the vicinity of Vernet-les-Bains, stopping first in wooded meadows by the river near Escouloubre (Aude), where *Liponeura cinerascens** was again taken on riverside vegetation and several saw-flies swept in shade included *Arge rustica* L., *Tenthredo albicornis** and a male of the *Rhogogaster picta* Klug group, presumably belonging to one of the two species whose males were unknown

to Benson (1952). On the opposite side of the road where conditions were more sunny, the abundant insects feeding at the *Myrrhis* flowers included the Tachinids *Phasia crassipennis**, a *Clytiomyia* species*, *Zophomyia temula*, *Gymnosoma rotundatum*, *Voria trepida* Mg. and *Eriothrix rufomaculatus* Deg. (the typical form of the latter*), also the saw-flies *Macrophya annulata* Geoff. and *Tenthredo vidua** (one female). *Rhaphium albomaculatum* Beck. (Dolichopodidae) and *Plesioclythia dorsalis* Mg. (Platypezidae) were also captured at this locality.

After the ascent through conifer plantations an open landscape of grassland with occasional patches of coniferous forest and villages dotted about was reached. A collection was made in open mountain grassland, marshy in places, near Puyvalador (Pyrenées-Orientales) where *Norellia spinipes* was found to be numerous on *Narcissus poeticus* and the smaller black Scatophagid *Delina nigrita* F., a leaf-miner of Orchids, was also taken. The tiny short-winged black Tipulid *Molophilus ater* Mg. was abundant. Upon reaching Vernet-les-Bains, a brief evening visit was paid to the orchards above Casteil, but little of note other than *Bombylius venosus** and *Gymnosoma rotundatum* was found. On the following morning, 29th May, some insects were swept from a scrubby slope just north of the town when one male of *Neurigona pallida* Fall. (Dolichopodidae), normally a woodland insect, was surprisingly among the captures and several females of the attractive small green and black saw-fly *Rhogogaster picta* Klug were beaten from dog-wood (*Cornus* species).

Several other localities in the Pyrenées-Orientales were sampled on that day. Although the weather was now fine as it was to be for the remainder of my stay in France, this district proved disappointing as it is so intensively cultivated on the lower slopes. The best results were obtained on derelict fields now grown up with scrub on a hillside near Llauro. Apart from *Chyliza vittata* and the ubiquitous *G. rotundatum* a number of species not previously seen in France were obtained, including *Ptiolina obscura* Fall (Rhagionidae), *Hercostomus nigrilamelatus* Macq. (Dolichopodidae), *Eustalomys histrio* Zett. (Anthomyiidae) and one male of the Stratiomyid *Chloromyia melampogon* Zell.*, a little larger and paler than our common British species *C. formosa* Scop. Also found was one female of a *Phasia* looking rather different from the typical *P. crassipennis* found at other French localities in having the disc of the abdomen black leaving only a narrow yellow margin (instead of a narrow black-stripe on a yellow ground) and in the wing markings being less intense and more discrete; this specimen agrees with material labelled as *P. magnifica* Girschn.* (= *leucoptera* Rdi.) in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) collection but this species is doubtfully distinct and the genus apparently requires revision. In a small area of cork oak woodland near St. Ferréol, insects were sparse but included a single female of the orange Rhagionid *Chrysopilus laetus* Zett. and one male of the small yellowish brown *Dioctria rufa* Strobl*

(Asilidae). The latter species (determined by Mr H. Oldroyd) is not included in the key to the French Asilidae by Séguy (1927), being previously recorded as far as can be ascertained only from Spain. Finally, in a chestnut coppice near Lamanère, *Myopa buccata* L. (Conopidae) was caught at hawthorn blossom, *Bombylius venosus** again occurred and one female of the saw-fly *Rhogogaster genistae* Benson, closely related to *R. picta* mentioned above, was also taken.

After an overnight stop at Canet Plage, I proceeded along the coast road, briefly investigating an area of rather arid thorn scrub near Miréval, midway between Seté and Montpellier (Hérault). Here Bombyliids were in evidence, including *Systoechus ctenopterus* Mikan*, *Bombylius ater* Scop.* and *Hemipenthes morio* L.*. Little else was about here but *Eristalis aeneus* Scop. (Syrphidae), the saw-fly *Aprosthem a peletieri* Vill.* and the bees *Prosopis pictipes* Nyl. and *Anthidium 6-dentatum* Latr.* were also taken.

I arrived in the vicinity of the Camargue that evening when a brief stop was made in fields near Astouin (Bouches-du-Rhône). Here large numbers of small black *Dioctria* and several *Leptogaster cylindrica* De Geer (Asilidae) were sitting on the stems of long grass and reeds. The *Dioctria* comprised black legged males which ran to *D. claripennis* Vill.* and red legged females which ran to *D. wiedemanni* Mg.* in the keys provided by Séguy (*op. cit.*); he only described these sexes respectively of these species and I am inclined to regard them as being the two sexes of the same species; this hypothesis was further suggested by my finding the same two forms together on the following day at Salin-de-Giraud. Confirmation of this is, however, required as a sexual difference in the colour of the legs is not normally found in this genus.

On 31st May the whole of the day was spent visiting localities in the Camargue district (all in Bouches-du-Rhône). A feature of most stops, including that at Astouin on the previous day, was the attraction of large Tabanidae to the car, frequently trapping them inside it; most of those coming were *Tabanus autumnalis* L. and *Hybomitra expollicata* Pand. although the smaller species of *Haematopota* also came, especially *H. pluvialis* L. but also one female of *H. bigoti* Gob. at Salin-de-Giraud. The first stop near Mas-Thibert produced a few insects, swept from rough grassland near dykes and a wasp of the genus *Polistes** was found sitting on its small paper nest attached to a reed stem. The best find at this spot was a single male of the small rather Conopid-like Tachinid *Plesiocyptera rufipes* Mg.*, a Mediterranean species of which there are specimens in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) collection from Portugal and Crete; these differ, however, from my specimen in having rather darker legs and genitalia.

Then a few miles further down the road (on the east bank of the Rhône) a strip of reeds and marsh plants bordering rice beds was very productive of insects especially Hymenoptera. The beautiful iridescent purple Ruby-Wasp *Tetrachry-*

sis viridula Rossi* was among the many Aculeates. Diptera were less exciting here but among them were *Eristalis aeneus* (Syrphidae), *Odontomyia ornata* Mg. and *O. argentata* F. (Stratiomyidae), *Dorycera graminum* F. (Otitidae), *Lipara lucens* Mg. and *L. similis* Schin. (Chloropidae). Having crossed the ferry over the Rhône a brief stop was made on scrubby ground near Salin-de-Giraud, where in addition to some of the species mentioned above the elegant Dolichopodid *Poecilobothrus ducalis* Lw. was captured.

Marshy ground and saltmarsh sampled near the Etang de Vaccares produced few insects and little novelty, but during the afternoon very good collecting was had on a narrow strip of marshy ground bordered by elm trees near Albaron. Stratiomyids were very numerous on the elm foliage, especially the pale greenish yellow *Oxycera trilineata* F., also several *Odontomyia ornata* and *Stratiomys furcata* F. Tabanids, including *T. autumnalis* and males of *Hybomitra ciureai* Séguy (= *schineri* Lyneborg of Oldroyd, 1969) and *H. tropica* L.* were settling on elm branches and, resting on the foliage of one tree was a single example of the large striking wasp-like Syrphid *Ceriana conopoides* L.*; the larvae of the latter fly, which was once reputedly British (see Verrall, 1901) develop in rotten elm wood. *Ceriana* is rather reminiscent of our very scarce *Doros conopseus* F. but differs most noticeably in its remarkable prolongation of the head on which the antennae are borne. Sweeping low vegetation produced many of the shining tessellated Muscid *Lispe melaleuca* Lw.* and at rest on reed stems under the elms were two of the large light grey Tachinid *Macrophthalma europaea* Egger*, a good deal larger fly than its close relative with which we are more familiar in Britain, i.e., *Dexiosoma caninum* F.

Finally in the Camargue area, I visited one of the large salt lakes to the south of Salin-de-Giraud, where sweeping the very windswept coarse vegetation on the embankment produced a remarkable variety of small fry, among them *Microphorus anomalus* Mg. (Empididae), *Orchisia costata* Mg. and *Lispocephala mikii* Strobl* (Muscidae), *Homoneura notata* Fall. and *Minettia subvittata* Lw.* (Lauxaniidae) and the rather elegant slender bodied Tachinid *Mintho rufiventris* Fall. In view of the difficulty of access to most of the Camargue, however, I decided not to spend longer but to begin my journey northwards at a more leisurely pace than originally intended.

On 1st June, therefore, I started via Nîmes to Alès and thence to Villefort. Shortly before reaching the latter town, I did some collecting on a grassy hillside partly covered with gorse and hawthorn scrub grading into bracken. One female each of *Phasia crassipennis** (Tachinidae) and *Chyliza extenuata* Rossi (Psilidae) were found sheltering amongst the bracken in the heat of the day; *C. extenuata* develops in the root-stock of broom-rapes (*Orobanche* species). Among other insects taken here were one male of the small grey brown Asilid *Dysmachus hamalatus* Lw.* and one female of the saw-fly

Rhogogaster genistae. Taking the road to Mende, I stopped on the ascent to the Col de Tribes to collect in a steep meadow below woodland, through which a little stream was trickling. Plenty of *Narcissus poeticus* was present and *Norellia spinipes* was again found; this plant was later seen to be abundant in all the meadows around Mende. The large black Empid *Empis ciliata**, first seen at the Col de Coudon was abundant, feeding at various flowers. Other insects taken here included both sexes of the Syrphid *Tropidia fasciata* Mg.* a rather larger duller fly than our *T. scita* Harris; *Delina nigrita* (Scatophagidae); *Callomyia elegans* Mg. (Platypezidae); *Urytalpa ochracea* Mg. (Mycetophilidae); *Orellia distans** (Trypetidae); *Merodon equestris* F. (Syrphidae); *Actia frontalis* Macq. and *Zophomyia temula* (Tachinidae); *Bombylius venosus** (Bombyliidae) and the saw-flies *Arge thoracica* Spin.*, *Tenthredo obsoleta* Klug. and *T. zonula* Klug.*.

Collecting for that day was then curtailed as I proceeded to Ardes-sur-Couze in the Auvergne (Puy-de-Dôme) where I stayed the night. Then, on the bright sunny morning of 2nd June a few hours were spent in the marvellously flowery meadows of that area, where insects were exceedingly numerous and various. Here Hogweed, Meadow Clary (*Salvia pratensis* L.) and ox-eye daisy were the most attractive elements of the flora to the Diptera. Many species of Syrphids were about and here the fine insect *Merodon clavipes* F.*, formerly thought to be British, was found as were *Microdon mutabilis* L. and *Cheilosia coerulescens* Mg.*, a species with lightly maculated wings. As at Miréval, Bombyliids were much in evidence. *Bombylius discolor* Mikan and *B. venosus** were taken at *Salvia* flowers, while *B. ater** was rapidly flitting about, pairs in copula of the latter being seen and several *Hemipenthes morio** were sitting on the mud of a dried up stream. The orange females of *Bibio hortulanus* L. (Bibionidae) were abundant on hogweed flowers and a female of *Eustalomyia hilaris* Mg. (Anthomyiidae) was taken from a tree-trunk. Also caught here were the Phasiine Tachinids *Gymnosoma rotundatum*, *Phasia crassipennis** and *Alophora obesa*; the Calliphorids *Sarcophaga ebrachiata* Pand. and *Pachyophthalmus signatus* Mg; the Conopid *Myopa buccata*; one female each of the hairy-eyed grey *Tabanus* species, *T. quatuornotatus* Mg.* and *T. nemoralis* Mg.*; the saw-flies *Arge thoracica** and *A. melano-chroa* Gmel. and the wasp *Clypeocrabro clypeata* Sch.*.

During the afternoon of that day I passed through Clermont Ferrand on to the Chatel-Guyon road, stopping briefly at a roadside pond between Chateauneuf-le-Briand and St. Gervais d' Auvergne (Puy-de-Dôme). Sweeping the marsh vegetation around the pond produced a variety of common saw-flies but Diptera were strangely scarce, only *Zophomyia temula* being worthy of note. I then continued rapidly to the Forêt de Tronçais (Allier) where about an hour was spent. This consists of high oak forest with bracken bordering the rides but a lack of flowers which no doubt accounted for the paucity

of Diptera. One worker of the Hornet, *Vespa crabo* L. was, however, seen. I stopped for the night at St. Amand-Mont-Rond (Cher), where *Xylomyia marginata* Mg. (Xylomyiidae) and *Scaeva selenitica* Mg. (Syrphidae) were caught rather surprisingly that evening, both sitting on low grass.

On 3rd June I proceeded northwards with the intention of reaching the Forêt de Rambouillet near Paris. For this reason, I made only two brief stops en route, firstly at St. Hilaire (Eure-et-Loir), where a short time was had sweeping in rough grassland and scrub adjacent to orchards. Here several of the small black and white Stratiomyid *Nemotelus pantherinus* L. were taken, in an unlikely situation for the marsh-loving flies of that genus; *Ulidia erythrophthalma* Mg. (Ulidiidae) was also captured. Then in the middle of the very warm afternoon a good catch was made of smaller Diptera by sweeping in the shadier parts of an oakwood situated between Dangeau and Illiers (Eure-et-Loir). Here the fauna was almost entirely British but one male of the slender little Asilid *Dioctria longicornis* Mg.* was obtained and also worth noting are *Pyratula zonata* Zett. (Mycetophilidae) and *Homoneura interstincta* Fall. (Lauxaniidae). Having accomplished my intention, the opportunity was taken that evening to sample the insects of the Forêt de Rambouillet (Seine-et-Oise), when results were similar although slightly better than the woodland sampled earlier in the day. Species of *Hilara* (Empididae) were abundant along the shaded woodland streams, including *H. thoracica* Macq., *H. lurida* Fall., *H. anglodanica* Lund. and *H. angustifrons* Strobl.; *Hercostomus celer* Mg. was among the Dolichopodids taken.

On the following day, 4th June, the morning was spent at Rambouillet, several distinct areas within that large forest being investigated. The high woodland areas visited again gave similar results, although *Apemon marginata* Mg., *Pyratula zonata* (Mycetophilidae) and *Eustalomyia hilaris* also occurred. The banks of a canal at La Cerisaie, however, proved very productive. Sweeping the marginal vegetation gave *Diaphorus nigricans* Mg. and *Rhaphium longicorne* Fall. (Dolichopodidae), *Eccoptomera longiseta* Mg. (Heleomyzidae), *Cerodontha henniqi* Now. (Agromyzidae), *Coenosia trilineella* Zett. (Muscidae), *Lipara lucens* and *Chlorops gracilis* Mg. (Chloropidae), while several *Dioctria atricapilla* Mg. (Asilidae) were about. A curious assemblage of species normally associated, in the British Isles at least, with coastal sand-dunes and not found inland, was present on a small area of white sand bearing sparse vegetation, which had been deposited near the canal and by the side of a road bridging it. These were *Sciapus maritimus* Beck. (Dolichopodidae), *Trichoscelis obscurella* Fall. (Trichoscelidae) and *Thereva annulata* F. (Therevidae). Also present on the sand were *Delia cilicrura* Rdi. (Anthomyiidae), *Hercostomus angustifrons* Staeg. and *Chrysotus femoratus*

Zett. (Dolichopodidae) and *Senotainia conica* Fall. (Calliphoridae).

Starting northward again in the afternoon I stopped by some flooded gravel pits described as the Étang de St. Ouen (Eure). Insects were sparse in the coarse herbage around the pits but via a causeway between them I followed a track, which crossed a railway into a shady wood. Small Diptera were numerous amongst the shady vegetation in the wood, these including such species as the Empids *Microphorus crasipes* Macq. and *Leptopeza flavipes* Mg. and the Psilid *Chyliza leptogaster* Mg. Upon re-crossing the railway, however, it was noticed that sunlit ash and hazel foliage overhanging the track on the pit side, i.e., facing the wood, was attracting a number of flies. The best part of an hour was spent at this spot, catching insects as they alighted on the foliage. The presence of a rotten hazel trunk in the immediate vicinity probably accounted for the appearance of *Xylomyia marginata* and the Syrphids *Xylota segnis* L., *Ferdinandea cuprea* Scop. and *Criorrhina floccosa* Mg., also perhaps for some of the Sphecids taken there. Among the many insects found in this situation were *Neurigona pallida*, one female (Dolichopodidae); *Plesiocluthia dorsalis* and *Paraplatypeza atra* Mg., a few of each (Platypezidae); *Cnemodon vitripennis* Mg. (Syrphidae); *Phorocera obscura* Fall. (Tachinidae); the Pompilid wasps *Anoplius niaerrimus* Scop. and *Pompilus spissus* Schiödt and the Sphecids *Pemphredon lugubris* Latr., *Trypoxylon figulus* L. and *T. attenuatum* Smith; also one female of the Tabanid *Chrysops caecutiens* L. which alighted on me. Perhaps most remarkable of all was the appearance in quick succession of one female each of the large flat-bodied saw-flies *Pamphilius vafer* L. and *P. hortorum* Klug.; insects of the genus *Pamphilius* very rarely come my way and then only as single individuals. These captures were then a fitting conclusion to this trip, which apart from a brief sojourn at Elbeuf (Seine-Maritime) in the evening, when little other than *Clusia flava* Mg. (Clusiidae) settling on a tree stump was seen, was now brought to a close. When I returned to Dieppe the following morning it was again raining as it had been a fortnight before.

Identifications of species have been made as far as possible from the most recent works available; the majority are my own but some aid was kindly given by Mr H. Oldroyd for some Brachycera and by Mr A. C. Pont for some Muscidae. The Aculeate Hymenoptera were named in entirety by Mr K. M. Guichard to whom my thanks are due.

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Plemyria rubiginata (Denis & Schiffermüller)
ab. *egregia* ab. nov

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This aberration is characterized by the dark medial area of the forewing being broadened at the posterior margin reducing the area of white distad of the basal area, as illustrated.



Holotype ♂. Scotland: Aberdeen, Aug. 1925 (G. H. Marillier) in R. C. K. collection, British Museum (Natural History).

I would like to thank Mr D. S. Fletcher for having arranged for the photograph to be taken and for helping me with the description.